

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: First Selectman, Steven M. Everett; Deputy Selectman, Robert Hellstrom; Selectman, Lisa Napolitano; Selectman, William O'Brien; Selectman, Jeffrey Viens.

Also Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**S. Everett added the following to the Agenda: Town Administrators Report, 8.4 - Public Informational Meeting for State Project No. 30-97 Hop River State Park Trail; Old Business, 4.3 - Continuation of Public Hearing to adopt new schedule of Zoning Fees Ordinance 22-1 and Zoning Board of Appeals Fees for Application 22-2, and Old Business, 4.4 - Acting Upon Fee Schedule Ordinance per Outcome of 4.2. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda as revised for June 4, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Approval of BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2019.** W. O'Brien MOVED to Approve the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. J. Viens asked to correct the spelling of his last name.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 4.1 **Town of Columbia 401(a) & 457(b) Plan Vendor Change.** M. Walter explained that we originally hired Integrity Benefit Partners to look at our retirement plans and put it out to bid. He stated that the BOE has done their due diligence with multiple presentations and at last night's meeting the BOE approved to go forward. M. Walter noted that the Town has done multiple presentations for the Town employee's as well. M. Walter explained that with the BOS acceptance he can move forward with the contracts. M. Walter provided a legal analysis from the BOE attorney, Shipman & Goodwin that confirmed that the review and bidding process followed best practices and due diligence. M. Walter explained that both the Town and the BOE have performed reference checks.

S. Everett MOVED that the BOS find that it is in the best interest of the Town to terminate the services of AXA Advisors, LLC with respect to the Town's 401(a) & 457(b) retirement plans; and that, in conjunction with the Board of Education with respect to the 403(b) Retirement Plan for which the Board of Education is responsible, the Town utilize the Town's and Board of Education's combined market strength to obtain financially beneficial retirement plan services with a combination of providers

consisting of MML Investor Services, LLC and Great-West Financial in accordance with such agreements and other documentation as Town Administrator Mark Walter shall negotiate; (1) with respect to the Town's 401(a) and 457(b) plan in conjunction with the Board of Education's negotiation of similar documentation with respect to its 403(b) plan; (2) with the assistance of William DiCristofaro, as the Town's Financial Advisor, and legal counsel for the Board of Education and/or Town and; (3) for presentation to the Board of Selectman/First Selectman for final review, approval, execution and delivery. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

4.2 Fee Schedule Ordinance Amendment. S. Everett stated that in looking at the updated draft ordinance the subdivision fees seem to be in the neighborhood or in parallel with surrounding towns. L. Napolitano stated that she had a problem with the subdivision fee's being excessive when it applies to subdividing property for a family member. Discussion ensued.

4.3 Continuation of Public Hearing to adopt new schedule of Zoning Fees Ordinance 22-1 and Zoning Board of Appeals Fees for Application 22-2. S. Everett MOVED to re-open the public fee schedule and changes proposed. S. Everett opened the discussion to the audience. There were no comments from the audience. S. Everett MOVED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

4.4 Acting Upon Fee Schedule Ordinance per Outcome of 4.2. S. Everett MOVED to adopt the amended and restated Town Ordinance 22-1 entitled "Ordinance for a New Schedule of Zoning Fees", presented at the March 19, 2019 public hearing, excepting that no fee on page one would increase or be added, and to repeal Town Ordinance 22-2 entitled "Zoning Board of Appeals Fees for Application" because it has been superseded by Ordinance 22-1; changes effective July 1, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Discussion of filling the Temporary Position as The Building & Land Use Administrative Assistant. J. Viens MOVED to authorize Mark Walter, Town Administrator to take steps necessary to fill the position with Terri Lasota on a temporary basis. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

7. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

7.1 Resignation of Phil Levine, Gatekeeper at the Columbia Recreation Park. S. Everett MOVED to Accept the Resignation of Phil Levine as the Gatekeeper at the Columbia Rec Park. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

8.1 Open Space Fundraising for Trust for Public Land. M. Walter explained that on June 7th at 8:00am the Open Space Committee will discuss and strategize fundraising efforts for the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to help offset costs incurred for legal, billing and personnel. L. Napolitano and J. Viens stated that they were concerned about what the final outcomes will be in the contract. M. Walter explained that in the contract all assumptions would be included in the contract. A. Dunnack explained that one option may be that the State holds the title, not the Town.

- 8.2 Clarification on Zoning Regulations Language for Prohibited Uses.** M. Walter was asked to report back to the BOS on a question that they had on the language in the zoning regulations pertaining to prohibited uses. He explained that he spoke with the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Town Planner to get clarification and they explained that the language provides protection for the Town and stated that in essence, the language says that because the Town didn't prohibit it, does not mean it is permitted.
- 8.3 Sustainable CT Trex Bench Community Challenge.** M. Walter stated that we will be participating in the Trex Bench Community Challenge for Sustainable CT. The challenge includes a 6-month collection period to recycle 500 pounds. There will be 5 locations (Transfer Station, Town Hall, Library, and the Sr. Center) for residents to drop off their plastic bags. Trex will then make a park bench out of the bags collected for the Town of Columbia.
- 8.4 Public Informational Meeting for State Project No. 30-97 Hop River State Park Trail.** M. Walter explained that there will be a public informational meeting on the State Project No.30-97 - Hop River State Park Trail in Yeomans Hall held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The meeting starts as an open forum at 6:30pm for individual discussion with DOT representatives and a formal presentation at 7:00pm. Preliminary plans will be available for review. The purpose of the project is the creation of a trail section of the larger multi-modal East Coast Greenway Trail System. Department personnel will be available during the meeting to discuss the project. BL Companies would like to know what town officials (and or elected officials) will be attending and if they wish to speak.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 9.1** State Trooper Monthly Report.
- 10. BUDGET:**
- 10.1 Transfers:** None
- 10.2 Refunds:** None
- 11. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Payment of Bills totaling \$225,091.95 for the payment of bills to 2018-2019 Emergency, 2018-2019 Regular, Bond '01 Principal & Interest, Credit Card, and Paychex. MOTIONS CARRIED 5.0.
- 12. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** A. Dunnack asked if the Hop River Trail project will be utilizing the existing structure. M. Walter explained that the plan includes the construction of a new, prefabricated bridge.
- 13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** S. Everett stated we had a very nice Memorial Day ceremony with the inclusion of 2 buglers that played echo Taps.
- 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).** S. Everett MOVED to enter into Executive Session at 7:52 pm for pending litigation matters with M. Walter present. MOTION CARRIED 5.0. S. Everett MOVED to end

the Executive Session with no action taken at 8:02 pm. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:03pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie